

Appl. No. 10/709,025
Amdt. dated December 26, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 16, 2005

Abstract

A method of purchasing value units required for utilizing a paid function of a software program residing on a first computer. The method includes the first computer initiating an order with a second computer for a quantity of value units to be purchased. The software program receives a serial number from the second computer and stores the serial number in a memory of the first computer. The second computer transmits a refill file to the memory, the refill file indicating the quantity of value units purchased and a confirmation number corresponding to the serial number. The refill file is loaded from the memory into the software program, and the confirmation number is compared with the serial number. If the confirmation number matches the serial number, the quantity of value units purchased is added to a previous total of value units and the serial number is permanently deleted from the memory.

15